

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 MCT-01 ACDA-07 IO-13
/101 W

-----021935Z 095341 /50

R 021527Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4573
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR EG LY
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS ON LIBYA MAY 1-2

REF: (A) CAIRO 7299 (B) TRIPOLI 557

1. ALTHOUGH CAIRO PRESS MAY 1 ABOUNDED WITH ANTI-LIBYAN BARBS, TONE OF MAY 2 DAILIES MUCH MORE RESTRAINED, PERHAPS REFLECTING FACT THAT PRES SADAT IN HIS MAY DAY SPEECH (SEPTELS) VIRTUALLY IGNORED QADHAFI AND LIBYAN QUESTIONS.

2. STUDENT DISSENT. MAY 1 DAILIES, CITING REPORTS FROM TRAVELLERS FROM LIBYA, DECLARE THAT QADHAFI PERSONALLY BEAT TWO FEMALE
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STUDENTS IN BENGHAZI APRIL 5. STUDENTS, ALLEGEDLY RELATIVES OF OFFICERS EXECUTED APRIL 2, WERE BARRED FROM ALL FUTURE STUDY IN LIBYA. ARTICLES ALSO CHARGE THAT LIBYAN STUDENTS REFUSED TO ATTEND LIBYAN STUDENT CONFERENCE ADDRESSED BY QADHAFI APRIL 6 AND STUDENTS HAD TO BE FORCIBLY TRUCKED TO CONFERENCE TO IMPRESS FOREIGN NEWSMEN.

3. EGYPTIAN EXPULSIONS. MAY 1. ARTICLES NOTED THAT QADHAFI ORDERED EXPULSION OF ALL EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN, SUDANESE, AND PALESTINIAN DOCTORS. ORDER REPORTEDLY ISSUED APRIL 23 BUT EXECUTION DELAYED UNTIL REPLACEMENTS FROM USSR COULD BE OBTAINED. LIBYAN MOBS ALSO REPORTEDLY ATTACKED "INSURANCE" HOSPITAL IN BENGHAZI, BEATING BOTH EGYPTIAN PHYSICIANS AND LIBYAN PATIENTS WHO TRIED TO DEFEND THEM. DAILIES MAY 2 REPORT THAT QADHAFI HAD ORDERED ALL LIBYAN AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTORS TO TERMINATE CONTRACTS OF EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL LABORERS, WHO WERE TO BE EXPELLED. TOTAL OF 126 EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS REPORTEDLY HAS REACHED CAIRO DURING PAST TWO DAYS. TOTAL OF 1,545 EXPELLEES DURING PAST FOUR DAYS (ALL CATEGORIES) REPORTED BY MAY 2 DAILIES.

4. SOVIET ROLE. MAY 1 ARTICLES CITE "DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES" IN TRIPOLI THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA HANDED QADHAFI HAND-WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV CONTAINING "NEW SOVIET INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE COLONEL". GUMHURIYYA CITES FRENCH WEEKLY "L'EXPRESS" THAT SOVIETS HAVE PROVIDED LIBYA WITH SIX SUBMARINES, 2500 TANKS, WTO SQUADRONS OF MIG-23, ONE SQUADRON OF TU-22 BOMBERS, AND A VARIETY OF MISSILES.

5. SUDAN. DAILIES MAY 2 CARRY AFP ITEM FROM KHARTOUM DETAILING CHARGE BY NUMAYRI THAT LIBYA HSS ESTABLISHED "AIR BRIDGE" BETWEEN TRIPOLI AND ADDIS ABABA CARRYING LIBYAN-BOUGHT SOVIET WEAPONS TO ETHIOPIA FOR USE AGAINST SUDAN.

6 ARAB LEAGUE. DAILIES MAY 2 NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THAT NOT ONE ARAB STATE HAS BOTHERED TO REPLY TO AL NOTE RAISING SUBJECT OF LIBYAN CALL FOR EMERGENCY AL COUNCIL MEETING
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TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF EGYPTIANS IN LIBYA (REF A). EGYPTIAN INTERPRETATION IS THAT ARAB SILENCE CONSTITUTES REPUDIATION OF QADHAFI.

7 COMMENT: GOE IMPLACABLY OPPOSED TO ANY AL MEETING CALLED TO DISCUSS EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS. IF QADHAFI HAS INDEED DECIDED TO ABANDON HIS ATTEMPTS TO EXPEL EGYPTIANS WORKING IN LIBYA (PER REF B), THIS FACT HAS NOT YET ATTRACTED ATTENTION OF CAIRO PRESS.
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